



St Botolph's Church,

Colchester

25th April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

This week's picture is of a water colour painting that was commissioned as a gift. It is a fitting picture with the doors open to celebrate our return to worshipping in Church.

Dear Friends,

Greetings in April are often accompanied by comments about wet weather, but this year, whilst we have certainly had sunny days, it has been dry and cold, with nightly frosts delaying the growth of crops.

If you have been watching the flagpole on the Church tower you will have noticed a lot of changes. The Union Jack was of course flying at half mast in mourning for Prince Philip, and last Sunday it was raised to the top in preparation for the celebration of the Queen's birthday, only to be changed again at the end of the week for the Red Cross of St George to be flying on 23rd.

An extract from one of Bishop Peter's recent reflections.

"In the last few days, I have begun to read a book entitled 'You are what you Love' by Jamie Smith, the American philosopher and theologian. It is a re-imagining of the task of Christian discipleship. His essential point is what we truly love defines us: it is not our thinking that guides our following and our actions but our loving. It is not intellectual belief or duty that can transform our lives and service as disciples of Jesus, but our love for him."

A prayer from the Bible Reading Fellowship

Lord of the Easter garden and of a new beginning, may the ground-breaking truth that LOVE WINS Transform our lives into a living faith, for the sake of our friends and families, our neighbours, and our enemies, to whom you now offer the gift of deathless life. Amen.

Our Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM), it will follow worship on **Sunday, 30th May**.

This Sunday, Ven. Michael Fox will lead our Communion service, we hope you can join us at 10.30 am.

Castle Methodist Church online worship is at <https://www.youtube.com/Colchestermethodists>
Do remember that we can log into the on-line worship at Christ Church. A range of options are available please have a look at Colchester Christ Church Facebook Page

Collect for 4th Sunday of Easter.

**Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**